

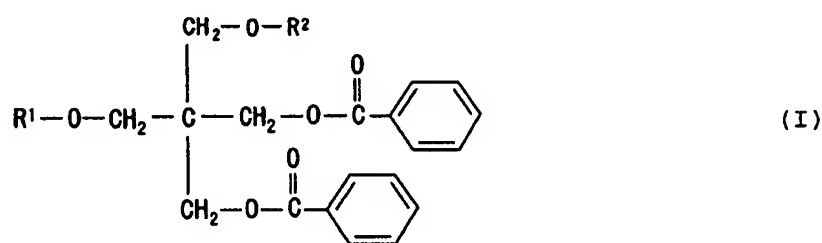
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising:

an ester of pentaerythritol and a benzoic acid having the formula (I):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> indicates a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched fatty acid residue having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, and R<sup>2</sup> indicates a linear or branched fatty acid residue having 1 to 24 carbon atoms or a benzoic acid residue, and

a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

2. (Original) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of said formula (I) is a 2-ethylhexanoic acid residue and R<sup>2</sup> is a benzoic acid residue.

3. (Original) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount blended of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of formula (I) is 5 to 80% by mass.

4. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition is a lipstick.

5. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the composition improves gloss of lips after application of the composition to the lips.
6. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  is a behenic acid residue.
7. (New) A cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a 2-ethylhexanoic acid residue and  $R^2$  is a linear or branched fatty acid residue having 1 to 24 carbon atoms.